



Better Cities—A Better Life

November 29, 1999

Steve Ritchie  
Acting Director  
CALFED Bay Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

RE: CALFED Long Term Governance Proposal - Need for City Membership

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

On behalf of the League of California Cities, I wish to provide a few comments regarding the long term governance proposal for CALFED drafted by the California Environmental Trust and reviewed recently by the Bay Delta Advisory Committee (BDAC). Unfortunately, the "straw proposal" circulated and discussed includes no representation from local government--specifically, cities or counties.

The League believes that any proposal or legislation to create a commission or other body responsible for the long term governance of CALFED should include at least one city representative. Although the straw proposal includes six public members representing agriculture and urban water users, the Delta, rural watersheds and fishing interests, six state agency and six federal agency representatives, there is *no* specific representation from local governments.

We believe that it is crucial to include a designated member who is a current mayor or council member who can provide a city perspective to the body. Since land use, housing, transportation, water quality and recreation decisions made by cities will have impacts on the policies, programs and projects undertaken by CALFED (and vice versa), we believe that failure to include a city representative on such a proposed commission could significantly effect its success. However, we believe that inclusion of a city representative who is knowledgeable of how cities operate and the range of issues of interest and concern to them could significantly contribute to its success.

We believe that for CALFED to successfully survive thirty years, it must find a way to institutionalize a method for dealing with the concerns of communities it touches. We believe, if a governance commission is established, that designating one seat to be held by a city council member or mayor is the best way to meet this need. There are several existing models for including city representation on regional boards and commissions. For example, regional water

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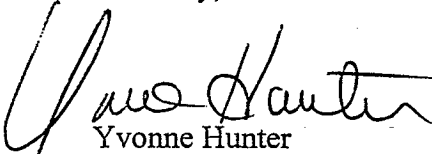
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quality control boards and the Delta Protection Commission, to name a few, both include city representatives.

Thus, the League respectfully suggests that any future proposal to establish a long term governance framework for CALFED include at least one designated city member. Thank you for your consideration of our suggestion.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Hunter  
Legislative Representative

cc: Hap Dunning, Chair, Bay Delta Advisory Committee  
Tom Hannigan, Director, Department of Water Resources  
Mary Nichols, Secretary, Resources Agency  
Chairs, Senate and Assembly Water Committees